

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 039409

FOLLOWING REPEAT BANGUI 0307 ACTION SECSTATE, ABIDJAN, COTONOU,
DAKAR, KIGALL, LOME, NIAMEY, OUAGADOUGOU, PORT LOUIS, PARIS
DTD 18 FEB 77.

QTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 0307

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XJ, PORG, RW

SUBJECT: OCAM SUMMIT

REF: STATE 024382

1. SUMMARY: OCAM SECRETARY GENERAL MOUTIA HAS GIVEN US HIS
ASSESSMENT OF RECENTLY CONLUDED OCAM SUMMIT. BASICALLY MOUTIA (AND
FOREIGN MINISTER MOKODOPO WHO ATTENDED AS PART OF GOCAE DELEGATION)
ARE PLEASED WITH OVERALL RESULTS, PARTICULARLY DECISION TO OPEN
OCAM'S SPECIALIZED AGENCIES TO NON OCAM MEMBERS, AND WITH SENSE OF
SOLIDARITY ACHIEVED. SECRETARIAT CONTINUES TO HAVE FINANCIAL AND
PERSONNEL PROBLEMS WHICH ARE TO BE INVESTIGATED. SPECIALIZED
AGENCIES WILL BE FOCUS OF FUTURE OCAM EFFORTS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR, OCAM SECRETARY
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GENERAL MOUTIA REVIEWED CURRENT SITUATION IN OCAM AND RESULTS OF
KIGALI SUMMIT. MOUTIA SAID THAT SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT, WHICH
HE HAD PRESENTED TO OCAM MINISTERS AND HEADS OF STATE, WAS BRUTALLY
FRANK. SINCE HIS CONTACT HAD EXPIRED IN NOVEMBER, HE FELT ABLE TO
STATE HONESTLY THE PROBLEMS FACED BY HIS SECRETARIAT. ESSENTIALLY
THESE BOIL DOWN TO LACK OF STAFF (A THIRD OF ALL SENIOR POSITIONS
ARE VACANT); LOW PAY (20 PER CENT LESS THAN AT NEIGHBORING UDEAC

SECRETARIAT) AND LOW QUALIFICATIONS OF SECRETARIATE PERSONNEL (VERY FEW HAVE DEGREES OR PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMAS.) HIS REPORT ALSO DREQ ATTENTION TO THE FAILURE OF SOME MEMBERS TO PAY THEIR ASSESSED DUES WHICH ADDED TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE SECRETARIAT AND MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO MOVE AHEAD WITH MANY PROJECTS PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY OCAM HEADS OF STATE.

3. MOUTIA SAID HE WAS SHARPLY CRITICIZED AT KIGALI FOR HIS REPORT, WHICH IS PUBLIC DOCUMENT. MINISTER'S HOWEVER ACCEPTED FACT THAT SOMETHING NEEDED TO BE DONE, AND THREE-MAN COMMITTEE, AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL, WOULD SHORTLY BE COMING TO BANGUI TO STUDY SECRETARIAT'S PROBLEMS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE ACTION. HOWEVER, DESPITE CRITICISM, MOUTIA WAS PLEASED THAT HE HAD BEEN RECONFIRMED FOR ADDITIONAL TWO YEARPERIOD AS SECRETARY GENERAL.

4. ON SUBSTANTIVE SIDE MOUTIA SAID MAJOR DECISION WAS TO MOVE AHEAD IN OPENING VARIOUS OCAM SPECIALIZED AGENCIES TO NON-MEMBER STATES. IN FACT FORMER OCAM MEMBERS HAD ALWAYS BEEN ALLOWED TO REMAIN IN SUBSIDIARY BODIES; NOW AGENCIES WERE BEING THROWN OPEN TO ALL AFRICAN STATES. HE ANTICIPATED THIS WOULD RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT STRENGTHENING OF THESE INSTITUTIONS. PROBLEM WHICH REMAINS TO BE SOLVED IS HOW THSE INSTITUTIONS ARE TO BE GOVERENED. TRADITIONALLY DECISIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN AT OCAM HEADS OF STATE LEVEL AND IMPLEMENTED THROUGH SECRETARIAT. WITH ANTICIPATED INFUX OF PARTICIPANTS, WHO DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO SECRETARIAT EXPENSES, NEW MECHANISM WOULD HAVE TO BE FOUND SO THAT NON-OCAM MEMBERS PAID THEIR WAY. SPECIAL OCAM SUMMIT HAS BEEN CALLED IN DAKAR IN APRIL TO GO INTO THIS ISSUE. MOUTIA ANTICIPATES HEADS OF STATE WILL NOT WISH TO RELINQUISH POWER OVER THESE BODIES NOR ALLOW

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INDIVIDUAL COUNCILS OF ADMINISTRATION (AGENCY GOVERNING BODIES) TO BE GIVEN REAL POWER. SOME STATES HAVE SUGGESTED BOARDS. BUT MOUTIA WAS SKEPTICAL THIS PROPOSAL WOULD BE APPROVED.

4. MOUTIA CITED GROWING SENSE OF SOLIDARITY AMONG MEMBER STATES AS PRINCIPAL POLITICAL ACHIEVEMENT OF KIGALI SUMMIT. VIRTUALLY ALL OF OCAM'S MEMBERS WERE SMALL, WEAKER AFRICAN STATES.

THEY NEED MUTUAL SUPPORT. MOUTIA SAID BENIN'S COUP D'ETAT ATTEMPT HAD BEEN CATALYTIC FACTOR, WITH MINISTERS AND HEADS TF STATE AGREEING THAT WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN COTONOU COULD EASILY HAPPEN IN OTHER MEMBER STATES AS WELL. ALL WERE EQUALLY VULNERABLE. MOUTIA, V WHO HAD VISITED COTONOU AT KEREKOU'S INVATION, WAS IMPRESSED WITH EXTENT OF DAMAGES AND EASE WITH WHICH MERCENARIES HAD BEEN ABLE TO REACH BENIN, AND OBVIOUSLY PASSED THIS VIEW ON TO KIGALI PARTICIPANTS.

5. WITH REGARD TO FUTURE MEMBESHIP OF OCAM, MOUTIA

SAID NO FURTHER DEFECTIONS WERE ANTICIPATED. INDEED WITH
ADDITION OF THE SEYCHELLES, HE THOUGH TIDE MIGHT HAVE TURNED IN
OCAM'S FAVOR; IT WAS POSSIBLE BURUNDI, THE COMORO ISLANDS AND
DJIBOUTI MIGHT ULTIMATELY JOIN.

6. COMMENT: DESPITE OPTIMISM DISPLAYED BY MOUTIA AND CENTRAL
AFRICANS WE REMAIN SCEPTICAL ABTUT THE LONG-TERM FUTURE OF OCAM. ITS
HETEROGENEITY CREATES PROBLEMS FOR ITS MEMBERS, WHO HAVE FEW COMMON
INTERESTS, AND SEVERAL IMPORTANT ONES HAVE WITHDRAWN. SPECIALIZED
AGENCIES, HOWEVER, WHICH IN MANY CASE ARE THE ONLY
ONES OF THEIR KIND IN AFRICA, SEEM TO MEET REAL NEEDAND ARE LIKELY
TO SURVIVE. SECRETARIAT SEES AS ITS PRINCIPAL CONCERN THE
VIABILITY OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS AND IT IS TO THAT END THAT
MOUTIA AND HIS COLLEAGUES WILL BE WORKING IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS.
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UNQTE: VANCE

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